

## Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

Conference call: 1/3/12 at 9:00 a.m.

**Objective:** Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project on salmonids and green sturgeon.

DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>

**DWR:** Angela Llaban, Mike Ford, Edmund Yu, Kevin Reece, Andy Chu, James Gleim, Tracy Pettit

**FWS:** Leigh Bartoo, Roger Guinee

**NMFS:** Barbara Rocco, Bruce Oppenheim, Barb Byrne

**Reclamation:** Russ Yaworsky, Josh Israel

**DFG:** Bob Fujimura, Joe Johnson, Robert Vincik

**EPA, SWRCB:** not present

### Agenda

1. Fish monitoring
2. Current operations
3. Annual review comments

### Action Item [11/15/11]

Evaluate the data from Mill and Deer Creek RSTs, Tisdale, and Knights Landing RSTs and compare the timing of spring-run Chinook salmon migration captured by each data set. **Carry until we get Mill and Deer Creek data overview from DFG.**

**Fish Monitoring:** The following table presents fish monitoring data 12/20/11 through 1/2/12. Unless otherwise noted, reported sizes are fork length. **No other reports were received before the conference call.** For additional data see:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>.

Location	Chippis Is. Midwater Trawl	Sacramento Kodiak Trawl	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl	Beach Seines	Knights Landing RST	Tisdale Weir RST
Sample Date					12/20/11–1/2/12	12/21/11–1/2/12
Total Catch					0	3
FR						
WR						3 (non-clipped)
SR						
Ad-Clipped Chinook						
DS						
Splittail						

<b>Longfin</b>						
<b>SH (ad-clip)</b>						
<b>SH (wild)</b>						
<b>W. Temp. (avg. °F)</b>					46.6	47.0
<b>Flows (avg. cfs)</b>					5178	5087
<b>Turbidity (avg. NTU)</b>					14.7	11.1
<b>WR/LFR Avg. CPUE</b>					0	0.113
<b>FR/SR Avg. CPUE</b>						

**Key:** FR = Fall run; LFR = Late-fall run; SR = Spring run; WR = Winter run; SH = Steelhead; DS = Delta smelt; LFS = Longfin smelt; SPTL = Splittail; CPUE = catch per unit of effort, ACT = acoustical tag

Generally, flows are down and/or dropping at all monitoring locations.

#### **Fish Salvage Data (12/26/11–1/2/12)**

Chinook: A 170-mm non-clipped late-fall-run Chinook was observed on 12/30/11 from the CVP for an estimated daily expanded salvage of 4. From 12/27/11 to 1/2/12, no other salmonids or sturgeon were reported from the facilities.

The seasonal (10/1/2011 to present) salvage totals of all races of Chinook at the CVP are 0 adipose clipped (loss = 0) and 15 non-clipped (loss = 10). No Chinook have been salvaged at the SWP this water year.

Salvage reports are posted at <ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/> and you can locate the table under folder “DOSS salvage tables”. **(Please note that this is a new website address provided because some DOSS members were having difficulty accessing the original address.)**

Steelhead: No steelhead were salvaged at either facility this period. The seasonal salvage totals of steelhead at the SWP are 0 adipose clipped and 4 non-clipped. No steelhead have been salvaged at the CVP this water year.

Delta smelt: No delta smelt have been salvaged at either facility this water year.

Longfin smelt: No longfin smelt have been salvaged at either facility this water year.

Splittail: Splittail were salvaged at the CVP (weekly salvage = 4) and SWP (weekly salvage = 16) this period. The seasonal salvage total of splittail at the CVP is 177. The seasonal salvage total of splittail at the SWP is 3,707.

White sturgeon: No white sturgeon were salvaged at either facility this period. The seasonal salvage total of white sturgeon at the CVP is 60. No white sturgeon have been salvaged at the SWP this water year.

Green sturgeon: No green sturgeon have been salvaged at either facility this water year.

### Operations (1/3/12)

SWP		CVP	
Exports (cfs)			
Clifton Court Forebay	4,000	Jones Pumping Plant	1,900 (down from 4,200 on 12/31/11. Might drop another unit later in the week.)
Feather - Oroville	1,750	American - Nimbus	1,750 (down from 2,000)
		Sacramento - Keswick	5,000 (will reduce with dry conditions)
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	600 (up from 500 for storage and initiation of January pulse; New Melones was encroached as well. Will remain for 6–7 days)
Reservoir Storage (in TAF, % of capacity)			
San Luis ( (SWP)	964 (need another 100 TAF to fill)	San Luis (CVP)	969 (full)
Oroville	2,538	Shasta	3,087
		Folsom	414
		New Melones	1,976
Delta Operations			
DCC	Closed (since 12/1/11)	Sacramento River at Freeport (cfs)	11,126
Outflow Index (cfs)	5,700	San Joaquin River (cfs) at Vernalis	1,774
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	13,551	OMR (daily) (CDEC) (cfs)	-4,300 on 1/1/12 and -2,900 on 1/2/12
Water Temperature (°F)		OMR 5 day (CDEC) (cfs)	Begin on 1/6/12
X2 (km)	81	OMR 14 day (CDEC) (cfs)	Begin on 1/15/12
E/I	41.3%		

### Delta Conditions: Balanced

**OMR:** To ensure accuracy of reported data, DOSS would like to be provided with a list of data sources so that members can compare the data to the CDEC information to avoid confusion if the numbers don't match.

OMR is a controlling factor right now for both projects (other controlling factors include water quality and Delta outflow). CVP is limited by its demands; Federal San Luis is already full. CVP demands are low enough that they cannot take their full share under balance conditions, therefore, the SWP will pick up any available water in the Delta.

**Coleman Fish Hatchery (CFH):** CFH will release its production today of late-fall-run Chinook and production steelhead upstream at Battle Creek. These fish should show up at upstream monitoring locations soon. Flows are so low that it will take them some time to get down to Knights Landing—probably about a week. Regardless of flows, they will migrate throughout the Delta.

**Weather Forecast:** It will likely continue to be dry through 1/19/12. Beyond that, the forecast is for a 50/50 chance of rain over the weekend in the American River drainage.

**Annual Review Comments:** DOSS members were asked at the last meeting to review the annual review report and provide comments. The one page in the review that deals with the DOSS team needs to be reviewed. No one was prepared to comment; therefore, this will be an action item to be carried to next week.

**Action Item: Review the DOSS section of the annual review report and provide comments regarding implementation of suggestions.**

**JPE:** A small group of biologist from the Interagency Ecological Program winter-run project work team (PWT) had a meeting on December 23, 2011, and agreed to some changes in the JPE this year based on recommendations for the larger PWT, however NMFS is still working on the JPE letter and the actual calculations. Oppenheim (NMFS) met with Llaban (DWR) and Israel (Reclamation) but now needs to document the winter-run PWT notes and the changes agreed to in those notes. The NMFS JPE letter to Reclamation should be out by mid-January.

**Smelt Working Group (SWG):** SWG will meet today at 10:00 a.m. and will provide an update at next week's conference call.

**DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS:** The DOSS advise for this week was to implement the calendar based OMR flow (RPA action IV.2.3 in the NMFS BiOp) of no more negative than -5,000 cfs OMR requirement as of January 1, 2012, to improve survival of juvenile salmonids passing through the Delta. In the absence of a winter-run base JPE trigger, DOSS advice is to use the minimum daily older juvenile loss density (2.5 fish/TAF) as the trigger for reducing exports.

**Next Meeting:** January 10, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.